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Amdo Tibetan

The **Amdolese language** (Tibetan: ཨ་མདོ་སྐད་, Wylie: *A-mdo skad*, Lhasa dialect: [ámtokɛ̃ʔ]; also called *Am kä*) is the Tibetic language spoken by the majority of Amdolese, mainly in Qinghai and some parts of Sichuan (Ngawa Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture) and Gansu (Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture).

Amdolese is one of the four main spoken Tibetic languages, the other three being Central Tibetan, Khams Tibetan and Ladakhi. These four related languages share a common written script but their spoken pronunciations, vocabularies and grammars are different. These differences may have emerged due to geographical isolation of the regions of Tibet. Unlike Khams and Standard Tibetan, Amdolese language is not a tonal language. It retains many word-initial consonant clusters that have been lost in Central Tibetan.

Amdolese	
ཨ་མདོ་སྐད་, *A-mdo skad*	
Native to	China
Region	Qinghai, Gansu, Tibet Autonomous Region, Sichuan, Amdo
Native speakers	1.8 million (2005)[1]
Language family	Sino-Tibetan ▪ Tibeto-Kanauri ? ▪ Bodish ▪ Tibetic ▪ **Amdolese**
Writing system	Tibetan alphabet
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	`adx`
Glottolog	`amdo1237 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/amdo1237)`[2]

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Dialects

Dialects are:[3]

- North Kokonor (Kangtsa, Themchen, Arik, etc.)
- West Kokonor (Dulan, Na'gormo, etc.),
- Southeast Kokonor (Jainca, Thrika, Hualong, etc.)
- Labrang (Labrang, Luchu)
- Golok (Machen, Matö, Gabde)
- Ngapa (Ngapa, Dzorge, Dzamthang)
- Kandze

Bradley (1997)[4] includes Thewo and Choni as close to Amdo if not actually Amdo dialects.

Hua (2001)[5] contains word lists of the Xiahe County 夏河, Tongren County 同仁, Xunhua County 循化, Hualong County 化隆, Hongyuan County 红原, and Tianjun County 天峻 dialects of Amdo Tibetan in Gansu and Qinghai provinces.

Media

Inside China

- The Qinghai Tibetan Radio (མཚོ་སྨོན་བོད་སྐད་ཆུང་འཕྲིན།) station broadcasts in Amdolese Tibetan on FM 99.7.[6]

Diaspora

- Radio Free Asia broadcasts in three Tibetan languages: Standard Tibetan, Khams language and Amdolese language.[7]

See also

- Balti language

References

1. Amdolese (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/adx/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Amdo Tibetan" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/amdo1237). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. N. Tournadre (2005) "L'aire linguistique tibétaine et ses divers dialectes." *Lalies*, 2005, n°25, p. 7–56 [1] (http://tournadre.nicolas.free.fr/fichiers/2005-aire.pdf)
4. Bradley (1997) (http://www.isw.unibe.ch/tibet/) Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20061208112836/http://www.isw.unibe.ch/tibet/) December 8, 2006, at the Wayback Machine
5. Hua Kan 华侃主编 (ed). 2001. *Vocabulary of Amdo Tibetan dialects* [藏语安多方言词汇]. Lanzhou: Gansu People's Press [甘肃民族出版社].
6. 青海藏语广播网 མཚོ་སྨོན་བོད་སྐད་ཆུང་འཕྲིན། - 青海藏语广播网 མཚོ་སྨོན་བོད་སྐད་ཆུང་འཕྲིན། (http://www.qhtb.cn/)
7. "བོད་སྐད་སྒེ་ཚན།" (http://www.rfa.org/tibetan/). *rfa.org*.

Bibliography

- Norbu, Kalsang, Karl Peet, dPal Idan bKra shis, & Kevin Stuart, *Modern Oral Amdo Tibetan: A Language Primer.* Edwin Mellen Press, 2000.
- Hua Kan 华侃主编 (ed). 2001. Vocabulary of Amdo Tibetan dialects [藏语安多方言词汇]. Lanzhou: Gansu People's Press [甘肃民族出版社]. (Contains word lists of the Xiahe County 夏河, Tongren County 同仁, Xunhua County 循化, Hualong County 化隆, Hongyuan County 红原, and Tianjun County 天峻 dialects in Gansu and Qinghai provinces.)

External links

- The Tibetan Phrasebook - A Phrasebook of Modern Amdo Tibetan (http://tibetanphrasebook.com/)
- A Bibliography of Tibetan Linguistics (https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Research_on_Tibetan_Languages:_A_Bibliography)

- *A Week in Rebkong, Amdo,* (https://web.archive.org/web/20080827205247/http://www.tibetanportal.com/amdo/instructionalUnit0.html) an Amdo primer
- AHP43 Amdo Tibetan Language (http://tibetanplateau.wikischolars.columbia.edu/VOLUME+43/)

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